



## “A Focused Dedication”

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23; John 4:34

**Listen!** Everyone is deeply dedicated! Dedication is *not* the problem.

**The Problem:** Since dedication is not the problem what is the problem?

**What Jesus had was a laser focused dedication on the will and the work of God.**

- Jesus had a ready and eager obedience to the will of the Father and the work of the Father—He went specifically and intentionally to be baptized. See John 4:34

**The five baptisms of the first century:**

- A Gentile proselyte’s baptism into Judaism (Many)
- John’s baptism (Many) Acts 19:3
- Jesus’ baptism (Only one)
- Spirit baptism into the Body of Christ (Many) Luke 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 8:9
- Water baptism after trusting Christ (Many) Matthew 28:20

**The reasons Jesus got baptized back then:**

- Not to demonstrate His repentance from His sin—He had no sin.
- To “fulfill all righteousness” or complete every aspect of the Law. Galatians 4:4, 5
- To be identified as the Messiah to John the Baptist. John 1:33, 34
- To affirm John’s message of repentance
- To identify with the believing remnant in Israel
- To identify with sinners for whom He was going to die. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- To receive the Spirit’s anointing and enabling for His ministry. Acts 10:38
- To fulfill His dedication to the Father’s will
- To demonstrate His deity and standing with the Father before all present

**The reasons we get baptized today:**

- To obey Jesus. Matthew 28:16-20
- To picture our death, burial, and resurrection with Jesus through faith
- To give visible demonstration of our inward, invisible faith in Christ
- To declare our identity with Christ
- To make a statement about our intention to continue in obedience

**What Jesus got from this laser focused dedication was secondarily for Him, but it was primarily for others:**

- Clarity demonstrated about His **identity**—He was the Son of God. 3X
- Clarity demonstrated about His **standing**—He was deeply loved by God. 3X
- Clarity demonstrated about His **authority**—He is **affirmed** by the Father. 3X
- Clarity demonstrated about His Father’s **stance**—He was well pleasing. 3X
- Clarity demonstrated about His **enabling**—the Holy Spirit indwelt Him. 3X

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**The Problem:** Everyone is dedicated to something or some things—everyone. Since dedication is not the problem what is the problem?

**The problem is the *focus or object* of our dedication.**

**The Core Idea:** A life well-lived begins with a laser focused dedication on the will of God and the work of God. John 4:34

**So What?** Please see the Walking Papers below for seven applications.

**Please see this:** For Apollo Ohno life became clear and energized when he dedicated himself to be a skater.

**For you and for me:** A laser focused dedication to the will and work of God makes all of life become clear, energized, and meaningful.

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## “Walking Papers”

*Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.*

**Core Truth:** A life well-lived begins with a laser focused dedication on the will of God and the work of God. John 4:34. **Please read John 4:34 each day.**

- **Today.** Have you been baptized as a believer in Jesus? If not will you?
- **Monday.** Examine the focus of your personal dedication—is it focused on the will of God and the work of God? What is the evidence either way?
- **Tuesday.** Memorize John 4:34. “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish His work.’”
- **Wednesday.** In the secular realm have you seen other examples of laser focused people like Apollo Ohno? How are those lives characterized?
- **Thursday.** In the spiritual realm have you seen examples of lives that are laser focused on the will and work of God? How are those lives characterized?
- **Friday.** Have you experienced laser focus on the will and work of God? What was it like?
- **Saturday.** What do you need in order to make and maintain a laser focused dedication to the will of God and the work of God? Will you go ask for it? Will you build a set of relationships and a system of going about life to make this happen?

**Note for Connection Groups:** The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.